



Brecknock Rural District Council

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1958

Officials. Medical Officer of Health....T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall,Erecon. L.R.C.P.
T.N.Brecon 26. D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector.....W.J.Rees,
Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board;Meat and Other Foods
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,Diploma of
the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

Additional Public Health Inspector..R.Taylor,M.P.H.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1958

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecknock Rural District during the year 1958.

In this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 22/58(Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. 189,532 acres.

The Rural District of Brecknock, which has an area of 189,532 acres is a large district in the County of Breconshire. It is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one third of the total size of the County.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants. It contains a new National Park consisting of the Brecon Beacons and surrounding countryside.

There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

Population. Census 1931.....8302.
Census 1951.....7430.
Estimated Mid-summer 1958.....7410.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years are shown below.

1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

7042. 7178. 7338. 7432. 7464. 7480. 7490. 7440. 7430. 7410.

The population dropped between the last two census years but during the last ten years again shows a general slight tendency to rise. There is a slight drop over the last three years.

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2331 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.2.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	47	35	82	
Illegitimate	2	1	3	
	49	36	85	11.4

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 16.4. The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district deathrate, which is an unsatisfactory feature.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered during the year was three.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	51	37	88	11.8

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7. The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and also higher than the district birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
	0.	1.	1.	11.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 21.6.
The district rate was therefore lower than the national average.

Total live and still births.....86.

Infant Deaths. There were four deaths registered during the year in children of under one year of age.

Total Mortality Rate.....	47.0
Legitimate Mortality Rate.....	0.04
Illegitimate Mortality Rate.....	0.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate.....	35.2

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births.....4.7%

Maternal Mortality. No deaths could be attributed to childbirth during the year which was extremely satisfactory.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....0.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious Disease.....	Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....	One.
Other forms tuberculosis.....	Nil.
Cancer.....	12.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....51. Females.....37.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	0.	1.
Syphilitic disease.....	1.	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.	1.
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	1.	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.	3.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	4.	3.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	7.	9.
Coronary disease.....	7.	2.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.	0.
Other heart disease.....	11.	10.
Other circulatory disease.....	3.	1.
Pneumonia.....	1.	1.
Bronchitis.....	2.	1.
Gastritis.....	1.	0.
Nephritis.....	1.	1.
Other defined causes.....	4.	3.
Motor Vehicle accidents.....	3.	0.
Other accidents.....	3.	1.
Suicide.....	1.	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. W. J. Rees remained as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. R. Taylor as your Additional Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing Facilities etc. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation, and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large Hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies.

During the year the Regional Water Supply Scheme was completed and the new filtration works brought into use. Nearly all villages in the Rural area now receive a supply of treated water, the principal exceptions being Trecastle (which will be connected early in 1959), Llechach and Penrynis which are still supplied from spring sources. A bulk supply is now being given to the Brecon Borough Council and serves a fairly large part in the high areas of the town.

During the year 93 water samples were taken from private supplies and 41 samples from public supplies - all for bacteriological tests.

Of the samples taken from private supplies 30 were satisfactory, 51 were unsatisfactory and 12 were doubtful. The results of the samples from public supplies were 32 satisfactory, 7 unsatisfactory and 2 doubtful.

Where necessary the Breconshire Agricultural Executive Committee and the owners of the supplies were advised of the analysis.

During the year the Council with three other neighbouring authorities formed a Water Board which will function as from the 1st April 1959.

Number of inspection visits.....126.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year two Sewerage and sewage disposal schemes (for the villages of Llanfilo and Llanfihangel-Nantbran) were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and both were approved.

Properties Connected to Main Drainage.

The response of owners to arrange for their properties to be connected to the Council's new sewers is still satisfactory. During 1958 the following number of properties were provided with main drainage,

Cray	- 5
Llanddew	- 2
Llanfrynach	- 0
Llangorse	- 0
Llan-Talylllyn	- 6
Pencelli	- 5
Pennorth & Scethrog	- 0
Sennybridge	- 0
Talybont-on-Usk	- 0
Trecastle	- 0

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to

Cray	-18
Llanddew	-27
Llanfrynach	-50
Llangorse	-61
Llan-Talylllyn	- 6
Pencelli	-10
Pennorth & Scethrog	-20
Sennybridge	- 1
Talybont-on-Usk	-84
Trecastle	-70
Total	<u>347</u>

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors.....123.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors to sewage works...69.

Public Cleansing. The refuse collection service, which is still being carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector, was extended during the year to include the Coedwauncar Housing Estate, Sennybridge, Maesberllan Housing Estate, Trecastle, together with several other properties.

The refuse lorry covered 11,700 miles during which 570 loads were collected weighing a total of 860 tons.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. J. Rees, and the additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Taylor.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....118.

Number of complaints investigated.....118.

Number of premises inspected.....118.

Number of premises revisited.....28.

Number of preliminary notices served.....28.

for (a) Structural defects.....6.

(b) Sanitary defects.....22.

Number of Statutory Notices served.....6.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....55.
 Number of defects found.....0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....25.

Factories.

Total number of factories.....19.
 Total number of inspections made.....28.
 Total number of defects found (insufficient sanitary conveniences
 and lack of cleanliness).....2.
 Both defects were remedied.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....39.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint
 to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T
 preparations which have been found very successful.
 No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. The Council have now engaged a full time Rodent Operator
 (Mr. E. Davies) to undertake work of rodent control.

Details of the work carried out during the year is as
 follows:-

Number of premises inspected.....62.
 Number of premises found infested.....24.
 Number of agricultural premises inspected.....51.
 Number of agricultural premises found infested.....16.
 Total number of premises treated by rodent operator.....25.
 Total number of premises treated by occupier.....7.
 Total number of premises treated by B.A.E.C.....8.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested
 houses.

Section 4. Housing.

The following details show the position as it was
 at the end of the year:-

Number of houses built by Council during the year.....20.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year...1.
 Number of inspections under the Housing Act.....146.
 Number of notices served.....53.

Improvement Grants - Housing Act, 1949.

Nineteen applications for
 improvement grants were made and all were approved and grants made.

Rural Housing Survey. No comment is made on this Survey other than that
 it was completed in 1955.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.

The district is being inspected regularly, and, as and when the
 occasion necessitates representation is made to the Council with a
 view to:-

- (a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works or
- (b) The making of demolition or closing orders.

Demolition orders made.....3.
 Undertakings accepted.....13.
 Properties demolished.....0.
 Closing orders served.....1.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of food premises in the area was as follows:-

Clubs.....1.
 Retailers.....16.
 Ice Cream retailers.....9.
 Bakers.....1.
 Cafes.....6.
 Hotels where meals are served.....12.

During the year one bakehouse was closed.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion has it been found necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year but in the normal course of their duties the Public Health Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

School Canteens.

Visits were made to and inspections made of school canteens and dining rooms. The attention of the Breconshire Education Committee was drawn to those premises which did not come up to the required standard by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary be carried out.

The Education Committee have agreed to carry out improvements at Llandefalle and Llan Nant-Bran during 1959.

Meat Inspection.

Number of registered slaughterhouses in area.....1.
 Number of inspections made to slaughterhouse.....93.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Beasts.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
27	73	573	8	131

Meat Affective with Disease and Condemned

Diseases	<u>Livers</u>		<u>Lungs</u>		<u>Heads</u>		<u>Pluck</u>		<u>Total Carcases & all organs</u>	
	Whole or part	lbs	Whole or part	lbs	No.	Lbs	No.	Lbs	No.	lbs
<u>Cows or Beasts</u>										
Hydated Cysts	4	24 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$					6	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Echinococcus)										
Cysts)	2	15	2	17					4	32
Distomatosis	4	20 $\frac{1}{2}$							4	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cirrhosis	1	2							1	2

Diseases	Livers		Lungs		Heads		Plucks		Total Carcasses & all organs	
	Whole or part	lbs	Whole or part	lbs	No.	lbs.	No.	Lbs.	No.	lbs.
<u>Sheep</u>										
Echinococcus)										
Cysts)	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$					1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Strongyli)									9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pneumonia &)									1	80
Dropsy)									3	10
Cirrhosis	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$					1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cysts	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$							2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flukes	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$							2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
<u>Pigs</u>										
Tuberculosis					12	83 $\frac{1}{2}$			12	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rupture &)										
Dropsical)									1	40
Totals	18	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	34 $\frac{3}{4}$	12	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	46	316 $\frac{1}{4}$

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	27	73	8	573	131	0
Number inspected	27	73	8	573	131	0

All diseases except tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	2	-	17	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	48%	2.7%	-	3.1%	0.8%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	12	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	-	-	9.1%	-

Cysticercis. No cases discovered.

All condemned meat from the Slaughterhouse is collected by a fertiliser making firm from Newport.

Disposal of Condemned Food. All condemned foodstuffs excluding meat are disposed of by burying in one of the Council's refuse disposal sites. No such foodstuffs was condemned during the year.

Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st. 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Local Authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year.....22.
 Number of samples satisfactory.....22.
 Number of samples unsatisfactory.....0.

Eight of the above were examined for presence of tuberculosis and brucella abortus, with negative results.

The result of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Food Preparation Rooms(including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....38.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....15.
 Number of samples taken.....3.
 Number of iced lollies taken.....12.
 All these samples were reported as satisfactory.
 There are 9 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of inspections made.....Nil.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

No premises are registered in the area for the sale of fried fish. Fish sold retail from motor vans is frequently inspected.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified to me during the year.

Measles.....193 cases.
 Paratyphoid B.....1 case.
 Scarlet fever.....4 cases.
 Puerperal fever.....1 case.
 Acute primary pneumonia.....1 case.

The district experienced a severe outbreak of measles during the first half of the year. Fortunately the cases were mild. The case of paratyphoid must be regarded as an aftermath of the epidemic of 1952. Two cases of measles and the case of paratyphoid were admitted to hospital, the remainder being nursed at home. No death occurred as a result of infectious disease.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....43.
 Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....5.
 Number of cases removed from register
 (a) Deaths.....1.
 (b) Left district.....3.
 (c) Disease arrested.....4.
 (d) As non-tuberculous.....0.
 Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....40.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below:-

1949. 1950. 1951. 1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958.

7. 11. 13. 4. 3. 5. 13. 5. 7. 5.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon an adequate level of immunisation being maintained. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health

